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Message Text

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41
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
---------- 037446
O R 261956Z JAN 76
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5958
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 BONN 01376

EXDIS

FROM AMBASSADOR SILBERMAN

DEPARTMENT PASS LABOR SECRETARY DUNLOP AND COMMERCE
SECRETARY RICHARDSON
IO FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY LEWIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ILO AORG
SUBJECT: MISSION OF SPECIAL ENVOY ON ILO AFFAIRS

1. I HAD DISCUSSIONS TODAY WITH BOTH FONMIN GENSCHER
AND LABOR MINISTER ARENDT CONCERNING US POSITION ON
ILO. I EMPHASIZED TO BOTH (1) THE SERIOUSNESS OF US
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POSITION AS WELL AS THE BROAD SUPPORT IT COMMANDS

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WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE US GOVERNMENT; (2) THE COMMITMENT ON OUR PART TO PROVIDE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL ATTENTION TO ILO ISSUES OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS; AND (3) THAT ALTHOUGH WE DID NOT SEEK TO PRESSURE OUR ALLIES, WE WANTED THEM TO KNOW THAT IF THERE WERE NO CHANGES IN THE DIRECTION OF THE ILO AND PARTICULARLY IF THE OTHER DEMOCRACIES DID NOT STAND WITH US ON WHAT WE REGARDED AS ISSUES OF PRINCIPLE, WE BELIEVE THAT OUR OWN INTERESTS WERE BETTER SERVED BY WITHDRAWING.

2. I TOLD BOTH THAT THE PREVENTION OF THE ELECTION OF A COMMUNIST TO ANY ONE OF THE FOUR MAJOR POSITIONS TO BE FILLED IN 1976 WAS A SINE QUA NON. I INDICATED SUPPORT FOR THE WEST GERMAN CANDIDATE FOR THE GOVERNING BODY AND EMPHASIZED OUR APPREHENSIONS THAT THERE WOULD BE THOSE WHO WOULD SEEK TO ACCOMMODATE THE EAST EUROPEANS BY AGREEING TO ONE AS THE PRESIDENT OF THE CONFERENCE. I ALSO DISCUSSED THE OTHER THREE ISSUES IN THE LETTER BUT IN GREATER DETAIL WITH ARENDT.

3. I TOLD GENSCHER THAT ALTHOUGH WE COULD ALL DO A BETTER JOB IN CONSULTATION AND PREPLANNING (WHICH HE SUGGESTED), THAT INEVITABLY CERTAIN BASIC ISSUES WOULD ARISE WHICH COULD NOT BE ACCOMMODATED WITHOUT FUNDA-MENTAL EROSION OF PRINCIPLE AND THAT WE WOULD NOT DO SO.

4. GENSCHER AGREED WITH BASIC CONTENTIONS BUT AVOIDED DISCUSSING SPECIFICS. HE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN MY SUBSEQUENT DISCUSSIONS WITH OTHER EUROPEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS AND REQUESTED THAT HE BE INFORMED OF THE RESULTS. HE EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO FIGHT ON ISSUES OF PRINCIPLE, DESCRIBING HIMSELF AS A MAN THAT WOULD PREFER TO FIGHT IN THE FORWARD LINE RATHER THAN TO HAVE TO FIGHT IN THE REAR. HE AND HIS ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS SAW OUR ILO PROBLEMS IN THE CONTEXT OF GENERAL MULTILATERAL DIFFICULTIES, INCLUDING THE UN. HE EMPHASIZED THE FRUSTRATION THE EC FELT CONCERNING LACK OF CONSULTATION, PARTICULARLY IN NEW YORK, BASED, AS HE PUT IT, ON THE FACT THAT USUN CONFIDENTIAL

DID NOT GET ITS INSTRUCTIONS UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE TO CONSULT. IN RESPONSE I INDICATED THAT WE WERE ANXIOUS TO CONSULT WITH OTHERS ON THE ILO QUESTION AND THAT, OF COURSE, WAS THE PURPOSE OF MY TRIP. WE WOULD KEEP IN TOUCH WITH HIM ALL ALONG IN AN ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY COMMON POSITIONS.

5. ARENDT WAS A SHADE LESS ENTHUSIASTIC THAN I EXPECTED

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IN LIGHT OF HIS CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON. HE ALSO INDICATED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE BUT EXPRESSED CONCERN ABOUT THE REST OF THE EC. HE SUGGESTED THAT THE AFL/CIO AND USG WERE NOT ON THE SAME WAVE LENGTH TO WHICH I RESPONDED THAT WE INDEED HAD A UNIFIED POSITION.

6. ARENDT AND HIS ASSOCIATES WORRIED THAT IT COULD BE

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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FM AMEMBASSY BONN
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 BONN 01376

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DIFFICULT TO STOP AN EAST EUROPEAN FROM THE ILO PRESIDENCY. I REITERATED OUR ARGUMENTS AS TO THE IMPLICATION FOR TRIPARTITISM OF SUCH AN ELECTION AND THEY DID NOT DISAGREE. I ALSO MADE ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT SUCH AN ELECTION OR INDEED ANY ACCOMMODATION OF THE

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COMMUNISTS ON STRUCTURE WOULD BE EQUIVALENT TO A GOOD-BYE PARTY FOR US..

7. ARENDT ASKED WHETHER I PLAN TO TALK TO BLANCHARD. I RESPONDED THAT WE WOULD DISCUSS MATTERS EVENTUALLY WITH BLANCHARD BUT THAT WE REGARDED OUR ALLIES AS OUR FIRST PRIORITY. HE IS TRAVELLING TO GENEVA TOMORROW AND WILL DOUBTLESS DISCUSS THE MATTER WITH BLANCHARD.

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8. TO BOTH ARENDT AND GENSCHER I EXPLAINED OUR POLICY WITH RESPECT TO THE ILO WAS NOT INCONSISTENT WITH OUR MILITARY/POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION OR OTHER EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES AND GENSCHER IN PARTICULAR SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND AND AGREE WITH THAT, RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF A CONTINUING FIGHT IN FORA SUCH AS THE ILO OVER QUESTIONS OF PRINCIPLE AND IDEOLOGY.

9. BOTH MEN UNDERSTOOD THAT IN THE EVENT THE US WITHDREW FROM THE ILO, THE FRG AS THE COUNTRY MOST CONCERNED ABOUT THE SAME ISSUES WOULD FIND ITSELF SOME-WHAT EXPOSED.

10. GENSCHER SAID THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EC NINE HAD BEEN PROCEEDING ON THE ILO QUESTION SINCE THE US LETTER WAS SENT TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL AND THAT THERE WAS GENERAL SYMPATHY TO US POSITION BUT HE DID NOT DISCUSS SPECIFIC POSITIONS, IF ANY, TAKEN BY THE EC NINE.

11. COMMENT: FRG SYMPATHETIC BUT MADE NO COMMITMENTS. THEY APPARENTLY WANT TO WAIT AND SEE HOW SUCCESSFUL WE ARE WITH THE BRITISH AND FRENCH.
HILLENBRAND

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